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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/693,389

10/27/2003

Kassab Al-Mahareeq

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05/08/2008

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EXAMINER

NAGPAUL, JYOTI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1797

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/08/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/693,389	<b>Applicant(s)</b> AL-MAHAREEQ ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> JYOTI NAGPAUL	<b>Art Unit</b> 1797	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-6 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Amendment filed on October 23, 2007 has been acknowledged. Claims 2 and 4-6 are pending.

#### ***Response to Amendment***

Objection of the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the reference character(s) not mentioned in the description has been withdrawn in light of applicants' amendment to the specification and in view of submitted drawing replacement sheet.

Rejection of Claim 4 as being anticipated by Yonkers (US 4599220) has been maintained in light of applicants' arguments.

Rejection of Claim 2 as being unpatentable over Yonkers (US 4599220) has been maintained in light of applicants' arguments.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed,

had possession of the claimed invention. The subject matter not described is a third sealing zone as recited in claims 5 and 6.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

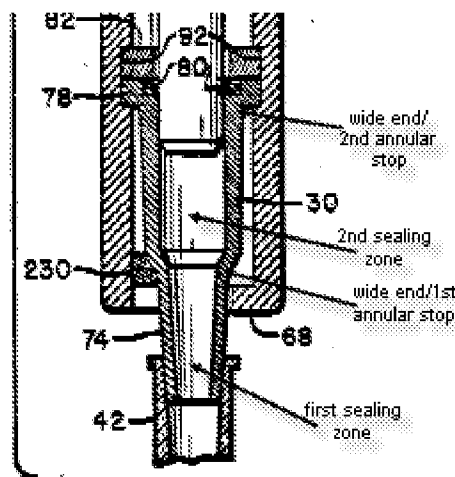
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 4 and 6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yonkers (US 4599220).

5. Yonkers teaches a multi-channel pipetter. Yonkers teaches a first sealing zone comprising upper and lower ends. According to Figure 3, it appears the upper and lower ends are at an angle of 84 to 90 degrees with respect to the plane perpendicular to axis of the first sealing zone. Yonkers further teaches a second sealing zone being coaxial with the first sealing zone. The second sealing zone comprises upper and lower ends. According to Figure 3, it appears the upper and lower ends are at an angle of 84 to 90 degrees with respect to the plane perpendicular to axis of the second sealing zone. Yonkers further teaches a first annular pipette tip stop between and abutting and being coaxial with the first and second sealing zones. The first annular pipette tip stop being substantially perpendicular to the axis defining the first and second conically tapered sealing zones. According to Figure 3, the first annular pipette tip stop has an inner diameter equal to the top end of the first sealing zone and an outer diameter to the

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lower end of the second sealing zone. Yonkers further teaches a second annular pipette tip stop abutting the second sealing zone. The second annular is perpendicular to the axis defining the first and second conically tapered sealing zones. According to Figure 3, the second annular pipette tip stop has an inner diameter equal to the top end of the second sealing zone. According to Figure 3, a third sealing zone (the area of 78) and having a third pipette tip stop defined at an upper end of the third sealing zone (the area of 78).



### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. **Claims 2 and 5** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonkers (US 4599220).

Refer above for the teachings of Yonkers.

Yonkers fails to teach first sealing zone comprising a narrow end with an *outer diameter of 0.18 to 0.20 inches*, a wide end with an *outer diameter of 0.20 to 0.22 inches* and being *0.10 to 0.15 inches long*, to thereby form a tapered at an angle of 84 to 90 degrees with respect to the plane perpendicular to the axis of the first sealing zone. Yonkers further fails to teach a second sealing zone comprising a narrow end

with *an outer diameter of 0.22 to 0.24 inches*, a wide end with an outer diameter of *0.24 to 0.26 inches* and being *0.13 to 0.17 in. long*.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Yonkers to provide a first sealing zone comprising a narrow end with an *outer diameter of 0.18 to 0.20 inches*, a wide end with an *outer diameter of 0.20 to 0.22 inches* and being *0.10 to 0.15 inches long* and a second sealing zone comprising a narrow end with *an outer diameter of 0.22 to 0.24 inches*, a wide end with an outer diameter of *0.24 to 0.26 inches* and being *0.13 to 0.17 in. long* in order to create a fluid tight seal between the tip and shaft and obtain the desired lateral stability for tip on the shaft. See *In Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 830, 225 USPQ 232 (1984), the Federal Circuit held that, where the only difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device was not patentably distinct from the prior art device.

### ***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments filed on October 23, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' argue that the first annular pipette tip stop is not ***substantially perpendicular*** to the axis defining the first and second conically tapered sealing zones. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicants' have not clearly recited what is deemed to be substantially perpendicular. Further, no standard has been recited to determine what is or what not is ***substantially perpendicular***. Therefore, it is

the examiner's position that Yonkers teaches a first annular tip stop is substantially perpendicular to the axis defining the first and second conically tapered sealing zones.

***Conclusion***

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JYOTI NAGPAUL whose telephone number is (571)272-1273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday (10:00-7:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jill Warden/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

JN